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ABSTRACT

Emphasizing its permanency as a State Agency, this 1973-74 annual report by the Nebraska Indian Commission presents the following: (1) Commission Membership, (2) Nebraska Indian Commission Committees (local, county, state, Federal, foundation, church-funded programs; legislative; education; health and welfare; legal services); (3) A Comprehensive Review of the American Indian in Nebraska (a 1971 study); (4) Individual Reports on the: Omaha Indian Reservation; Santee Sioux Reservation; and Winnebago Indian Reservation (each reservation is discussed in terms of its legal history; population; income; tribal programs; economic activities and potential; health; welfare; education; transportation; etc. and statistics relative to the early 70's are provided when appropriate); (5) Activities of the Indian Commission and the Office of the State Indian Commission (chronological documentation of meetings and events); (6) The Work and Accomplishments of the Nebraska Indian Commission (emphasis on the 1973 legislation which provide funds for an administrative assistant to the Director); (7) Research Projects (identified by objectives and results in the areas of housing; education and training; welfare; medical-dental care; employment; economic development; and legal services). (JC)

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REPORT OF THE

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

RC009174

Report

June 30, 1973 to

June 30, 1974

REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

JUNE 30, 1973 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1974

ROBERT B. MACKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

HON. J. JAMES EXON
GOVERNOR

State of Nebraska

ROBERT B. MACKEY
DIRECTOR

Nebraska Indian Commission
Box 94666 -- State Capitol – Lincoln 68509
Telephone 477-8984

June 30, 1974

THE HONORABLE J. JAMES EXON
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Dear Governor Exon:

The Nebraska Indian Commission is proud to have this opportunity in submitting this report which covers a period from June 30, 1973 through June 30, 1974, in compliance with the Revised Statutes Supplement, 1971, Section 3. That section 81-1219 wherein it states, "The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature and the Governor as to the work and accomplishments of the Commission." The Commission meets monthly.

There are over 15,000 Indians living in Nebraska, residing on the three federal Indian reservations of the Omaha, Santee-Sioux, and Winnebago Tribes who reside in Northeast Nebraska, and there are those Indians who live in rural, off-reservation areas, urban and metropolitan areas. There is a sizeable Indian population in Western Nebraska, many of whom are from South Dakota Indian Tribes who came from the Rosebud and Ogalala Reservations. Across the State, there are about 2,000 Indians who are classified as migrants who follow the seasonal employment opportunities. It is reported that 60 percent of the total Indian population live off the Indian reservations.

The Nebraska Indian Commission became a permanent State agency when the Governor signed LB 904 into law, May 22, 1971. The legislature appropriates funds for the Commission to function. With the State level voice of the Nebraska Indian Commission, the Indian people have been able to directly be involved in their own affairs and this has resulted in the resolving of those unusual and complex problems that exist because of the relationship of the Indians and the federal government compounded by the treaties made between them.

Since the Nebraska Indian Commission is totally Indian, they have been able to deal with these unique situations in an effective manner which is quite evident as progress is observed in the Indian Community across the State.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is grateful for the assistance and full cooperation of your office, the 1974 Legislative body, all other State and Federal agencies which have contributed to the many successes of the Nebraska Indian Commission in our endeavor to help our Indian people.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is the fulfillment of the Native Americans of this State to be representative and to have a voice on all levels of government.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert B. Mackey

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

1974

LAWRENCE COOK	OMAHA TRIBE
CLEMENT MITCHELL	OMAHA TRIBE
PAULINE TYNDALL	OMAHA TRIBE
GORDON KITTO, SR.	SANTEE-SIOUX TRIBE
WILLARD MACKEY, SR.	SANTEE-SIOUX TRIBE
DONALD LAPOINTE	SANTEE-SIOUX TRIBE
LOUIS LAROSE	WINNEBAGO TRIBE
FELIX WHITE, SR.	WINNEBAGO TRIBE
NICKY SOLOMON	WINNEBAGO TRIBE
MARK MONROE	NORTHERN PANHANDLE
DOLORES KILLS IN WATER	SOUTHERN PANHANDLE
NATHAN PARKER	(I.C.I.A.) OMAHA INDIAN CENTER
MARTHA GIBBS	(I.C.C.A.) OMAHA INDIAN CENTER
LEE KILLS ENEMY	LINCOLN INDIAN CENTER
LAWRENCE GILPIN	MEMBER-AT-LARGE

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION COMMITTEES

Local, county, state, federal, foundation, church-funded programs

Martha Gibbs, Coordinator
Louis LaRose
Willard Mackey, Sr.
Nate Parker
Pauline Tyndall

Legislative Committee

Felix White, Sr., Coordinator
Lawrence Cook
Clement Mitchell
Pauline Tyndall
Nicky Solomon

Education Committee

Lee Kills Enemy, Coordinator
Mark Monroe
Dolores Kills in Water
Martha Gibbs

Health and Weifare Committee

Lawrence Gilpin, Coordinator
Lee Kills Enemy
Dolores Kills in Water
Mark Monroe
Lon LaPointe
Pauline Tyndall
Nicky Solomon

Legal Services Committee

Gordon Kitto, Sr., Coordinator
Felix White, Sr.
Clarence White
Lee Kills Enemy
Martha Gibbs
Dolores Kills in Water

That section 81-1219, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1971, Section 2, reads as follows: "The purpose of the Commission shall be to join representatives of all Indians in Nebraska to do all things which it may determine to enhance the Indian cause of Indian rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians."

Section 3 reads as follows: "The Commission shall be a legal entity with the power to receive and administer funds from state, federal, tribal, and other sources. . . ."

FORWARD

June 30, 1973 through June 30, 1974

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

For many years, the Indians of Nebraska sought a means to be properly represented in Nebraska to insure their Indian rights and their rights as citizens and to formulate ways to resolve the many problems which face Nebraska Indians.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is a body for Indians by Indians so the Commission is a strong advocate in identifying these priority areas and to mobilize existing resources or to formulate new resources for: HOUSING, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, WELFARE, MEDICAL-DENTAL NEEDS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ALCOHOL-DRUG REHABILITATION, AND LEGAL SERVICE. The Nebraska Indian Commission works in conjunction with all Indian tribes, Indian organizations, local, county, state, and federal governments and agencies developing programs to meet the priority needs for Indian survival. The Indian Commission keeps the Governor's office fully informed of the status of the Nebraska Indian Community as well as keeping the public informed and educated regarding the Indians of the State of Nebraska.

The Indian's problems were created for him as the Europeans came to this country seeking religious freedom and in doing so, denied the rights of the American Indians and inflicted an entirely different philosophy and value system upon them, forcing them into poverty and privation and neglect.

The Nebraska Indian Commission has done much to breach this gap of misunderstanding and negative attitude towards the American Indians by talking to church groups, schools, teachers, colleges and universities to bring about a new image of the Nebraska Indian and a better understanding of one another.

The Nebraska Indian Commission has become more representative across the State with the passage of LB 37 which expanded the Indian Commission membership from 13 to 15 members, allowing two representatives in the Panhandle of Nebraska and an At-Large-Member to cover those areas which are developing into organized communities.

Source: Aberdeen Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Aberdeen, South Dakota

I. INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY

A. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Comprehensive Review of the American Indian in Nebraska is to provide a timely and instructive overview of the current situation in Nebraska with respect to its American Indians. The Review was compiled and published by Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Inc., for the information and use of its member judicatories and particularly those "sponsoring" Service Project 08, the cooperative exploration of Indian Ministry:

The Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church
The Christian Church of Nebraska
The Synod of Nebraska, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
The Church of the Brethren
The Nebraska Diocese, Protestant Episcopal Church
The Lutheran Church in America, Nebraska Synod
Church Women United

B. AUTHORIZATION. This study was authorized by the Board of Directors, June 15, 1971, in response to an initiative from the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Board directed the preparation of a Comprehensive Review for submission as a reference document to representatives of the participating church groups as they explore the possibilities of cooperative ministry in this area.

C. SCOPE. Three basic categories of information were sought for this Review: 1) The number, location and size of major Indian population concentrations (Areas) in the state; 2) the general and specific needs existing among Indians and the relative importance of each and the degree those needs are met in each area; 3) the nature and extent of services presently available to Nebraska Indians vis-a-vis the needs and the source of those services.

D. SOURCES: Information was obtained from three basic sources: 1)Published reports from related governmental agencies, such as, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; 2) extended interviews with the Nebraska Indian Commissioner; 3) Two field trips, one to Sioux City, Omaha, Winnebago and Macy, July 29-30, and another to Scottsbluff, Alliance, Gordon, Chadron and Crawford, August 19 and 20, Robert Mackey, of the Indian Commission, traveled with staff on the latter trip.

E. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.

1. The Indian population of the state is 14,451 and is generally located in three Reservations, Winnebago and Omaha Reservations in Thurston County and the Santee-Sioux Reservation in Knox County; in six Urban Centers: Omaha, Lincoln, Scottsbluff-Gering, Norfolk, South Sioux City, and Falls City-Rulo; and in the Panhandle.

2. The greatest unmet needs involving the largest number of Indians exists in the non-urbanized areas of northern and western Nebraska; the Santee-Sioux Reservation (Knox County) and the Panhandle (Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan and Sioux Counties).

3. The priority needs defined by Indians and leaders in these areas are: Self-determination (organization), Employment and Education.

Source: Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Inc.

II. POPULATION

A. OFF RESERVATION INDIAN POPULATION IN NEBRASKA - 1971

	Area	Tribe	Resident	Migrant
1.	Omaha	Omaha, Winnebago, various Sioux	1,194	2,500
2.	Lincoln	Omaha, Winnebago, various Sioux	600	200
3.	Panhandle	Various Sioux	1,334	1,300
4.	Scottsbluff-Gering	Various Sioux	357	300
5.	South Sioux City	Winnebago, Sioux, Omaha Ponca	200	
6.	Norfolk, etal	Ponca, Santee, Winnebago, Omaha	500	
7.	Falls City-Rulo	Iowa-Sac-Fox	110	
8.	Others		1,000	
		OFF RESERVATION TOTALS	5,195	4,400

(Source: CAP 5 Forms, OEO units)

B. PANHANDLE INDIAN POPULATION IN NEBRASKA - 1971

County		Resident	Migrant
DAWES:		275	300
Chadron	135-175		
Crawford	35-65		
BOX BUTTE:		512	400
Alliance	275-300		
SHERIDAN:		583	600
Gordon	310-350		
Rushville	45		
SIOUX:		12	
Panhandle Totals	755-945	1,334	1,300

(Source: N.W. Nebr. CAP - CAP 5 Form; local officials)

C. RESERVATION INDIAN POPULATION IN NEBRASKA - 1971

Reservation	Registered	Resident
1. Winnebago	1,928	877
2. Omaha	1,101*	1,101
3. Santee-Sioux	2,096	244
	5,125 Total	2,222 Total

(Source: Bureau of Indian Affairs)

* No Current Figures Available

D. SUMMARY - 1971 NEBRASKA INDIAN POPULATION

Area	Resident	Migrant
Off-Reservations		
Urban	5,195	4,400
Panhandle	1,334	1,300
Reservation	2,222	
SUBTOTALS	8,751	5,700
RESIDENT & MIGRANT TOTAL	14,451	

E. POPULATION NOTE:

There is considerable fluctuation of Indian population due to influx for seasonal employment in the panhandle and to migration to and from reservations. The Nebraska figures are also influenced by the in-migration, periodically, from Rosebud and Pine Ridge Sioux from South Dakota. In almost every case, local Indian leaders felt the CAP agency figures were minimal.

May 1971

OMAHA INDIAN RESERVATION

Macy, Nebraska

HISTORY

The first attempt made to provide a reservation for the Omaha Indians was by Treaty of July 15, 1830 (7 Stat. 328). The United States was released from provisions of this treaty, however, by the Treaty of October 15, 1836 (7 Stat. 524). A brief description of ensuing treaties, laws, and executive orders applicable to the Omaha Tribe and reservation follows:

Treaty of March 16, 1854 (10 Stat. 1043) with the Omaha Indians ceded all tribal lands to the United States in return for payment of $840,000 over a period of 40 years, except a tract on the Iowa River which was to become the Omaha Reservation unless the Indians found it to be unsuitable. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs reported in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior on May 9, 1855, that the site did not meet the approval of the tribe, they refused to go there and had selected instead an area in the Blackbird Hills in Nebraska. The Secretary's reply to the Commissioner on May 11, 1855, gave approval of that location as their reservation.

Treaty of March 6, 1865 with the Omaha Indians ceded to the United States certain lands on this reservation for the Winnebago Tribe in return for payment of $50,000. Provision was made for the Winnebago lands in severalty on the reservation, in allotments from 40 to 160 acres. (17 Stat. 391, c. 436) (Article IV of this treaty is the first official pronouncement of the existence of the Omaha Reservation.)

Act of June 10, 1872 authorized sale of 50,000 acres in the western portion of the reservation. The tribe approved, however, the land was not sold and the act was superseded by that of August 7, 1882. (17 Stat. 391, c. 436)

Act of June 22, 1874 appropriated funds for purchase of an additional 12,347 acres of land from the Omaha Indians for the Winnebago Tribe, amount paid to the Omahas to be applied for their use under direction of the Secretary. (18 Stat. 170, c. 389)

Act of August 7, 1882, amended August 2, 1886, May 15, 1888, Aug. 19, 1890, and August 11, 1894, authorized the sale of part of the reservation, with the consent of the Indians, proceeds from sale to be deposited in the U.S. Treasury to the credit of the Indians, at 5% interest and the income annually expended for the benefit of the Indians, under the direction of the Secretary. This act authorized allotments from one-sixteenth to one-fourth of a section in lieu of allotments under the Treaty of March 6, 1865, above. Patents were to be issued subject to trust for 25 years and then lands were to be

conveyed in fee. After allotments were made, the residue of lands was to be patented to the tribe subject to a 25-year trust and then conveyed to the tribe in fee simple, except that allotments in severalty were to be made on such lands to children born during the trust period. (22 Stat. 3410-343, c. 434; 24 Stat. 214, c. 844; 25 Stat. 150-151, c. 255; 26 Stat. 329, c. 803; 28 Stat 276-277, c. 255)

Act of March 3, 1885 authorized sale of additional lands. (23 Stat. 370, c. 341)

Act of May 15, 1888 authorized the payment of the last seven annuities under the Treaty of March 16, 1854, above, per capita, in two installments of $35,000 each. (25 Stat. 150, c. 255)

Act of March 3, 1893 authorized allotments to Indian women and any child born since allotments were made under the Act of August 7, 1882, above, and increased allotments of one-sixteenth of a section to one-eighth of a section. (27 Stat. 630-631, c. 209)

Act of August 27, 1894 authorized the issuance of a patent to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions to certain lands on the reservation. (28 Stat. 507-508, c. 346)

Act of May 27, 1902 authorized the Secretary to make a per capita payment to the Omahas out of $100,000 from the principal to their credit in the U.S. Treasury. (32 Stat. 267, c. 888)

Act of April 21, 1904, amended June 21, 1906, authorized the Secretary to make per capita payments of all funds to the credit of the Omahas, except enough to yield sufficient income to support schools, etc. Shares of minors and incompetents were to be held in the U.S. Treasury or paid to parents or guardians. (33 Stat. 201, c. 1402; 34 Stat. 356, c. 3504)

Act of February 18, 1909 authorized the Secretary to pay drainage assessments on tribal lands of Omaha Indians. The Secretary was authorized to retain part of per capita payments for such assessments. The Secretary was also authorized to issue patents in fee simple to Omaha Indians for lands allotted to them within drainage districts, which patents would operate to remove restrictions. (35 Stat. 628-629, c. 145)

Act of May 6, 1910 authorized the taxation of lands of members of the Omaha Tribe held under trust patents of allotments issued prior to 1885. (36 Stat. 348, c. 202)

Act of June 22, 1910 authorized the Omaha Indians to submit claims to the Court of Claims, under the Treaty of March 16, 1854, above, etc., and an Act of February 9, 1925 authorized an appropriation of $374,465 interest at 5% on principal sums found due the Omaha

Indians under the Treaty of 1854, by decision of the Court of Claims, said amount to be distributed pro rata to members of the tribe. (36 Stat. 580-581, c. 313; 43 Stat. 820, c. 169)

Act of May 11, 1912, amended and superseded by Act of January 7, 1925, authorized the Secretary to sell surplus lands in the Omaha Reservation, to deposit the proceeds in the U.S. Treasury at 5% interest and to divide the proceeds pro rata among the children living on May 11, 1912 and who had not received allotments, but these provisions were not to become operative as long as it was necessary to maintain an agency and school on the reservation. (37 Stat. 111-112, c. 121; 43 Stat. 726-728, c. 34)

Act of May 18, 1916 authorized assessments upon allotment of certain Omaha Indians in Wakefield drainage district, Nebraska, and authorized the Secretary to pay same and be reimbursed from rentals for allow ments. (39 Stat. 142, c. 125, 12)

Act of December 30, 1916 (known as the Stevens Act) made allotments of Omaha and Winnebago Indians in Nebraska held under trust patents issued in 1885 or later, on which the 25-year trust period had expired or had been extended, subject to State taxation. The Secretary was to pay the taxes out of funds under his control for those unable to pay. (39 Stat. 865, c. 10)

Executive Order 3111 of July 10, 1919, extended the trust period of allotments in this reservation for 10 years with 37 specified exceptions. Executive orders 4145 of January 28, 1925, 4548 of December 4, 1926, 5148 of July 3, 1929, and 5253 of December 31, 1929 extended the trust periods for 10 years each, but since the reservation is subject to the benefits of the Howard Wheeler Act, the trust period is extended indefinitely.

As originally established, the Omaha Reservation consisted of 300,000 acres more or less of tribal land. The above information innumerates the various actions which diminished the total reservation area and the Tribal land base -- for example, lands for the Winnebago Tribe and the allotment of lands to individuals in severalty. As of June 30, 1970, the Omaha Reservation consisted of 10,097.23 acres of tribal land and 17,316.24 acres of allotted land. 300 acres of the tribal land has been reserved for the needs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). There are no federally-owned lands administered by BIA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Omaha Reservation is located primarily in the southern half of Thurston County (26,505.79 acres), with a few sections in adjacent Burt County (1032.91) and Cummings County (163.54 acres), all in northeastern Nebraska. It is an area about 11 miles north to south and 22 miles east to west, all within the First Congressional District.

Generally, the lands of the Omaha Reservation are found in the rolling to steep hill area above the flood plain of the Missouri River, but a sizeable portion of the tribal land is also in the river bottom area. Approximately 5,612 acres of the reservation (both allotted and tribal) are timbered with about 8,600,290 board feet of merchantable American elm and cottonwood. Timber sales of small tracts are being made. With the exception of a 700-acre tribal park, a 20-acre housing project, and a 40-acre cemetery, the 21,138 acres remaining are classified as agricultural land. This agricultural land is further subdivided into grazing land (about 1,250 acres scattered in small tracts) and crop land (about 19,888 acres). None of the agricultural land is under irrigation. Of the agricultural land, 1, 979 acres are utilized by Indians and 19,159 ac. by non-Indians.

Nearly three-fourths of the reservation can best be described as "hill lands." Most of the steeper slopes are being farmed beyond their capability and are highly eroded. A greater return could be obtained from these lands if they were devoted to hardwood timber production. The more gentle slopes which are now being intensively farmed should be planted to grass and utilized for grazing purposes to provide a higher return. The bottom lands offer excellent potential for increased returns through the development of irrigation, which would permit the production of specialty crops such as onions, sugar beets, corn, grain sorghum, or soybeans. Selected use of both hill and bottom lands might also be profitable to a comprehensive program of livestock feeding to utilize locally-grown crops. Two of the largest livestock marketing centers in the nation are located within 70 miles of the Omaha Reservation. A grant application for a study on "Livestock Finishing" has been submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Of the 315 allotments on the Omaha Reservation still in a trust status, nearly 79% (251) are presently in an heirship status and the number is increasing daily. Moreover, the number of heirs per tract is increasing. The following statistics by number of owners give some indication of the problem:

Single owner	-	78 tracts
2 to 10 owners	-	156
Over 10 owners	-	82
Total	-	315

TRANSPORTATION

The reservation is served by two US highways - US 77 which passes through the mid-eastern portion of the reservation, and US 73E which passes through the extreme eastern portion, both traveling in a north to south direction. The extreme western portion of the reservation is served by State Highway 9. There are approximately 257 miles of section line roads on the reservation which have both gravel and earth surface. 30.4 miles of these roads are maintained by BIA and the remaining roads are maintained by either the county or townships. The Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad secondary mainline parallels US 77 through the reservation. Commercial air service is available at the Sioux City, Iowa, municipal airport, which is located 30 miles north of the reservation.

POPULATION AND MEMBERSHIP

At the present time (March 1971) approximately 1101 Indians reside on and near the reservation. This represents 245 families averaging 4.5 people per family, with an average age of 36 years. The Winnebago Agency records indicate that the reservation population has remained about the same for the past 20 to 30 years. There is a continual movement from the reservation, but these people are replaced by others who return due to unemployment and poor living conditions in the cities.

The Membership Roll of the Omaha Tribe was prepared pursuant to the Act of September 14, 1961 (75 Stat. 508). This act provided membership criteria different from the criteria set forth in the tribe's Constitution and Bylaws (a 1954 amendment to the Constitution). For example, Article II, "Membership," of the Constitution states:

> Section 1. The membership of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska shall consist of (a) all persons of Indian blood whose names appear, or are entitled to appear, on the official census roll of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska as of April 1, 1934, with the supplement thereto of January 1, 1935, and (b) all children who were born prior to the date Amendment I was approved and whose mother or father was a member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, and all children possessing at least one-half degree Omaha Indian blood who are born after the date Amendment I was approved and whose father is a member of the tribe, or, if living, would be entitled to membership.
>
> Section 2. The Tribal Council shall have power to enact ordnances, subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior, governing future membership, including adoption and the loss of membership.
>
> Section 3. Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed to deprive any Omaha Indian of any vested property right.

INCOME

Wage income to members of the Omaha Tribe is substantially below that needed to maintain their families. The 1970 average family income was $2420, with an average per capita income of $537. Welfare income to needy families supplements these figures.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

The Omahas accepted the Indian Reorganization Act, and a Constitution and Bylaws of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska was ratified on February 15, 1936. Approval to the Constitution and Bylaws was given on March 30, 1936. The constitutional membership provisions were amended on July 9, 1954. A corporate charter was ratified on August 22, 1936.

The governing body of the tribe is the Tribal Council. The Council is composed of seven representatives elected at large for three-year terms by the resident members of the tribe. Once elected, the Council elects from its own membership a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer. These procedures were established in the Constitution approved in 1936 and work satisfactorily. The Tribal Council also exercises all corporate powers under the charter.

TRIBAL PROGRAMS

Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

The Tribe has been cooperating with the Golden Rod Hills Community Action Council, which is a five-county Community Action Program agency. They conduct a full OEO program on the Omaha Reservation, which involves Headstart, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Operation Mainstream, Outreach, and Community Center.

Public Housing

The local Tribal Housing Authority has a total of 65 units of low-rent housing under management, of which 30 units are five years old and 35 units have just recently been completed.

Industrial Development

In 1967 the Omaha Tribe cooperated with the Walthill Industrial Development Corporation to establish a hydraulic cylinder plant in Walthill, Nebraska. This cooperative effort involved financing from the Tribe, SBA, Walthill, and Prince Manufacturing Company of Sioux City, Iowa. The plant provides job opportunities for 50 people.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Omaha Reservation has excellent potential for commercial and industrial development. Distinct advantages are the two US highways (73E and 77), a secondary mainline railroad of the CB&Q, two natural gas mainlines, a good supply of water, and an excellent municipal airport located in Sioux City, Iowa, only 30 miles distant. Three nearby metropolitan areas (Sioux City, Iowa, and Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska) would provide the population support for commercial reservation enterprises.

The Indian population is relatively small on the Omaha Reservation; however, combined with the population of the adjoining Winnebago Reservation, there are approximately 2,000 people. The labor force for the Omaha Reservation is as follows:

	Total	Male	Female
Available 16 years and over.....	863	446	417
Employed -- Permanent	60	38	22
Temporary	140	106	34
Total.....	200	144	56
Unemployed.....	425	208	217

The primary source of income for both the Indians and non-Indians either on or adjacent to the reservation has been and still is agriculture or agri-related businesses. The majority of the Indian people reside in or near the villages of Macy and Walthill, Nebraska. The people living adjacent to the villages reside on small acreages, with the majority of the Indian-owned land leased to non-Indian farmers.

HEALTH

The U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Indian Health maintains a 65-bed hospital at Winnebago, Nebraska, which serves the Winnebago and Omaha Reservations and other Indian groups. To provide complete services, the hospital staff consists of four physicians, 14 registered nurses, a pathologist, dentist, field health nurse, sanitarian, and others. Complete clinical outpatient service is available. Nearly all surgery is performed at Creighton University Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, about 70 miles distant. Overall, services available are adequate to meet the normal needs of the Omaha residents, and the facilities render better services than are found in most non-Indian communities of comparable size.

The Division of Indian Health staff ranks the major health problems of the Omaha residents as - first, alcoholism; second, accidents; and third, diabetes and its complications. The high accident rate and incidence of diabetes is related to alcoholism.

Almost all homes on the reservation have sanitary and domestic water facilities, depending upon the desires of the family. These facilities have only recently been made available under the Public Health Service program (P.L. 86-121). Under this program, 94 rural homes have been served; a few have a modern water and sewer system, while the remaining have only a sanitary privy and simple well.

WELFARE

The Indian residents of the Omaha Reservation receive welfare assistance from both the Thurston County Welfare Department and BIA. Categorical aid programs are administered by the county, and BIA administers a general assistance program. The following table shows the welfare assistance for fiscal year 1970:

	Persons	Amount
General assistance	166	$ 90,000
Child Welfare	2	2,100
Aid to Dependent Children	512	203,400
Other Welfare	70	46,000
Total	750	$341,500

COMMODITY PROGRAM

Surplus commodities are distributed monthly on the Omaha Reservation by the county. In the past the Tribe bore this expense and responsibility. The county uses the tribal distribution facilities, but has the expense of transportation and accounting. Thurston County, which includes both the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations, is the only county in the state that distributes surplus commodities to families. All other counties in the state use the Food Stamp Program.

EDUCATION

The 1971 school age population of the Omaha residents is as follows:

Pre-school, ages 4-5.....	77
Elementary, ages 6-14.....	372
Secondary, ages 15-18.....	90
Post-secondary, ages 18-35.....	51

37 tribal members between the ages of 6-18 are not attending school, 23 male and 14 female. The problem of the school dropout is still a very serious problem on the Omaha Reservation. This could be due to the fact that there is no high school in the community and high school students have to be transported to Winnebago and Walthill or attend BIA boarding schools. Many of the students do not want to leave their home community.

The educational interest of the Indian people continues to increase. The school board members for the Macy Elementary School are Indian people from the local community. The Johnson-O'Malley funds are now administered by the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Development Corporation.

June 1971

SANTEE SIOUX RESERVATION

Santee, Nebraska

HISTORY

The early history of the Indian bands now occupying the Santee Sioux Reservation includes several treaties and statutes which intended to establish a home for them initially in their native Minnesota. However, Presidential Executive Order of February 27, 1866, established the Santee Sioux Reservation in Nebraska by reserving from sale four townships consisting of 81,518.65 acres. Executive Orders of July 20, 1866, November 16, 1867, August 31, 1869, and December 31, 1873 further affected the reservation, causing total land acreage and other changes. By 1885, 853 allotments were made on the reservation to the Santee Indians, comprising 73,467.65 acres. All unallotted lands on the reservation were then restored to the public domain (about 43,160 acres) by Executive Order of February 9, 1885. Indian ownership has steadily decreased over the years, and as of June 30, 1970, 5786 acres of Indian-owned land remains, of which 3599 acres are Tribal land and 2187 acres are allotted. There is no federally owned land on the reservation area administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

The Santee Sioux Reservation is located in the northeastern portion of Nebraska in north central Knox County. The original reservation covered an area 16 miles north to south by 12 miles east to west. Climate is relatively mild, with an average daily temperature of 47.1 degress. Average yearly precipitation is 23.5 inches, with 56% the yearly precipitation occurring in four months, May through August. A frost-free growing season lasts about 155 days. One state highway, No. 12, passes through the center of the reservation in an east to west direction. Other reservation roads are county and township roads, totaling approximately 182 miles, and are either gravel or earth surfaced. BIA maintains 0.8 mile of road which serves an Indian cemetery near the village of Santee. State Highway No. 84 parellels the south edge of the reservation boundary. Railroad services are available at Niobrara and Verdigre, Nebraska, located four miles west of the western boundary of the reservation, and at Bloomfield, Nebraska, located four miles east of the eastern boundary of the reservation. The nearest commercial airport is at Yankton, South Dakota, a distance of 30 miles.

The Santee Sioux Reservation consists of rolling to steep hills above the Missouri River. Most of the reservation land is being used to its highest and best capability which is grazing and dryland farming. One small tract of land is being irrigated and a few others have irrigation potential. Of the 3599 acres of Tribal land, 2084 acres (58%) are used for grazing and 1515 acres (42%) for cropland. All of the Tribal land is used exclusively by Indians. Of the 2187 acres of allotted land, 63% is used for grazing and 37% for cropland. Indians are using only 14% of the allotted land; the remainder is leased and used by non-Indians. Income from leased lands is as follows:

	Approved Lease	Lease Income
Tribal land.....	1241 ac.	$2242
Allotments.....	1690 ac.	6050

(Bureau of Indian Affairs)

The Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska is organized and functions under a Constitution and Bylaws approved April 3, 1936, pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984). The Tribal Council consists of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer, and twelve members. The officers are elected from the council membership for a one-year term. The major resource of the Tribe is its land. However, the Tribe does not have a land purchase program and therefore, there has been no increase in the land resource for the past 20 years. The land now held in Tribal ownership was acquired for the Tribe after acceptance by the Tribe of the Indian Reorganization Act. The Tribal Council has established and followed the policy of leasing the Tribal land to Santee Sioux Tribal members only.

There are 29 allotments on the Santee Reservation still in trust status, and of these, 27 (93%) are presently in heirship status. The following statistics by number of owners give some indication of the problem:

Two to ten owners.....	14	tracts
Over ten owners	13	tracts
	27	tracts in heirship status
Single ownership	2	tracts
	29	

The continuing fractionization of ownership of trust allotments makes it almost impossible for the owners to negotiate or agree on any leasing arrangements. The resulting increased fractionated ownership decreases the returns to the individual owners.

POPULATION

In July of 1967 the Santee Sioux Tribal Council began updating their membership roll and made a request for all eligible members to make application for enrollment. At present 2096 applications have been received. These applications indicate that 244 Indian people reside on the reservation, of which 132 are male and 112 female. 89 people are under 16 years of age; average age of the remaining 155 persons is 39 years. 56 families reside on the reservation, averaging 4.3 persons per family. The Tribe has not kept any accurate population or membership records for a number of years; however, the trend has been a gradual decline in the reservation population.

INCOME

The primary source of income of the members of the Santee Sioux Tribe is from agriculture or agri-business. Most of the Indian people live on small farms and earn additional income from part-time employment with larger farm operators. A few are employed by schools or as construction workers. Only 8 families of the 56 families on the reservation obtained 100% of their income from self-employment. Income of the members of the Tribe, however, is substantially below that needed

to properly maintain their families and therefore, most of the Indian people obtain their livelihood through a combination of welfare assistance and part-time employment. In 1970 the average earned income per Indian family was $1250. The average total income per family, which includes both earned and unearned (old age assistance, aid to blind, aid to families with dependent children, general assistance, pensions), was slightly over $3500. About 80% of the Indian families have incomes of less than $3000 per year from all sources.

TRIBAL PROGRAMS

Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

Headstart Program - The tribe has operated a Headstart summer pre-school program for several years in one of the rural schools near Santee, Nebraska.

Community Action Program - The tribe received an OEO Community Action Planning grant in the spring of 1971 and is developing a Reservation Community Action Program.

Public Housing

The Tribal Housing Authority has 36 units of housing under construction and is planning additional housing units.

Industrial Development

The Tribal Council is extremely interested in the development of job opportunities on the reservation. The reservation has a good potential for recreational development since it is located adjacent to Lewis and Clark Lake, the reservoir of Gavin's Point Dam on the Missouri River.

Two local residents have used BIA Indian Business Development funds to establish small businesses.

Community Health

The tribe has a contract with the Indian Public Health Service to provide community health guidance on the reservation. There are two local members employed in this program.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND POTENTIAL

The reservation is at a disadvantage relative to the development of industrial and commercial enterprises due to lack of railroads, U.S. highways, organized villages with proper water and sewer facilities, commercial airports, natural gas lines, and good water supplies. In addition, the Indian population of the reservation is small and therefore the available labor force of Indians is insufficient to attract major industry. The neighboring towns of Niobrara, Verdigre, and Bloomfield, however, offer industrial development opportunities.

Available Labor Force	Total	Male	Female
Total 16 years and older.....	78	63	15
Employed -- Permanent	10	8	2
Temporary	29	27	2
Total.....	39	35	4
Unemployed.....	39	28	11

HEALTH

The U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) offers assistance to the Santee Sioux by operating a weekly health clinic in Niobrara, Nebraska. This clinic is serviced by the doctors and nurses from the Wagner, South Dakota, Indian PHS hospital. Indians requiring hospital care receive services from the PHS hospital at Wagner. Emergency cases are handled by hospitals at Creighton, Nebraska or Yankton, South Dakota.

In 1963 PHS provided sanitary facilities to 45 Indian homes. Of these 45, 21 have pressure water systems and flush toilets. Three of the 21 have automatic hot water. Wells providing the water are adequate to meet the needs of each family. The remaining 26 Indian homes have a hand pump for their water supply and a privy. Most of the Indian homes are in poor condition and are below the standard of the surrounding community. Over 70% are of a frame structure and are suitable for remodeling to include modern water and sewer facilities. The pressure water system installed by PHS in 1963 are now beginning to fail and maintenance of them is creating a burden on meager Tribal funds.

WELFARE

The Indian residents of the Santee Sioux Reservation receive welfare assistance from both the Knox County Welfare Department and BIA. Categorical aid programs are administered by the county and BIA administers a general assistance program. The Santee Sioux Tribe does not operate any program which is considered of a welfare nature. The following table shows types and amount of assistance received in fiscal year 1970 by members of the Santee Sioux Tribe:

Category	Persons	Amount
BIA General Assistance.....	27	10,400
Aid to Blind, Aged & Disabled.....	22	16,400
Aid to Families With Dependent Children...	109	42,700
Social Security.....	46	41,600
Total.....	204	$111,100

A Food Stamp Plan is now used on this reservation in lieu of commodities and is administered by the Knox County Welfare Department

EDUCATION

The average educational level of the different age groups on the Santee Reservation is as follows:

Age Group	Grade Level Attained	
	Male	Female
18-24 years.....	11.6	9.9
25-44 years.....	8.5	9.4
45-64 years.....	6.5	8.7

The school age population of the Santee Sioux Reservation residents is as follows:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
1-5 years.....	13	20	33
6-13 years.....	31	20	51
14-18 years.....	17	9	26
19-21 years.....	14	9	23
Total.....	75	58	133

BIA operates no educational facilities on the Santee Sioux Reservation. Indian children attend public schools. Recently most of the reservation schools have been consolidated with the Niobrara public school system. As a result, additions are being made to the school plant. Most children are transported to the school by bus. Niobrara is the only high school available for reservation students. The Niobrara high school and Santee grade school are assisted by Johnson-O'Malley funds administered through a BIA contract with the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Development Corporation, and P.L. 874 funds. Indian enrollment and federal assistance is as follows:

School	Number of Indian Students	1970-71 School Year Johnson-O'Malley Funds
Niobrara (K-12).....	100	$37,000
Santee (K-6)	20	10,000
Total	120	$47,000

The school dropout rate of the Santee Sioux students is about the same as the non-Indian children in the community. Only 4 of the 77 children between ages 6 and 18 are not attending school. Participation of Indian parents in school affairs is limited largely to special school events. Tribal members have been active with a Headstart Program for the past four years. There is no Adult Education Program in the local schools, but a full-time counseling service is available in the Niobrara public school through the Johnson-O'Malley contract. The National Teachers Corps established a unit at the Niobrara school beginning with the 1968-1969 school year and provides Federal Grand Aid and Adult Vocational Training services.

MAY 1971

WINNEBAGO INDIAN RESERVATION

Winnebago, Nebraska

HISTORY

The Winnebago Tribe has been moved by a series of treaty cessions from its historical home in the Green Bay area of the state of Wisconsin to its present location in northeastern Nebraska. In order to provide for the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska, the Omaha Tribe sold the northern part of their reservation to the United States (Treaty of March 6, 1865; 14 Stat. 667), who then conferred title upon the Winnebago's by Treaty of March 8, 1865 (14 Stat. 671).

As originally established, the Winnebago Reservation consisted of 112,823.46 acres. Allotments were established on the reservation under two acts of Congress - the Act of February 21, 1863 (12 Stat. L658) and the Act of February 8, 1887 (24 Stat. L388). The Indian ownership has steadily decreased since the date of the allotments, and today Tribal and allotted lands are highly checkerboarded with non-Indian ownership. At the present time there remains 28,059.14 acres of Indian-owned land, of which 2,889.34 acres are Tribal and 25,169.80 acres are allotted. 415.8 acres of Tribal land have been reserved for the needs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). There are 14.25 acres of Federally-owned land administered by BIA.

An Act of December 30, 1916, known as the Stevens Act, made allotments of Omaha and Winnebago Indians in Nebraska held under trust patents issued in 1885 or later, on which 25-year trust period had expired or had been extended, subject to State taxation. The Secretary was to pay the taxes out of funds under his control for those unable to pay. (39 Stat. 865, c. 10)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Winnebago Reservation is located primarily in the northern half of Thurston County (27,331.00 acres), with a few sections in adjoining Dixon County (742.43 acres), all in northeastern Nebraska. It is an area about eight miles north to south and 25 miles east to west, all within the First Congressional District. The reservation lies within the sixth principal meridian with a relatively mild climate and an average temperature in July at 75.6 degrees and January at 19.2 degrees. The average precipitation ranges from 0.68 inches in January to 4.09 inches in June. The average annual growing season is 160 days. The greatest flow of the tourist traffic occurs between June 1st and September 1st each year.

Generally, the lands of the Winnebago Reservation are found in the rolling to steep hill area above the flood plain of the Missouri River. A sizeable portion of the Tribal land, however, is located in the river bottom lands. Approximately 6,128 acres of the reservation (both allotted and Tribal) is timbered with an allowable cut of about 747,000 board feet annually. There is a considerable amount of timber marketing activity at the present time. The remaining 21,945.43 acres of Indian lands are classified as agricultural. This agricultural land is further subdivided into grazing land (12% in scattered tracts) and cropland (66% dry land farming). None of the agricultural land is under irrigation. Only a small portion of the trust land is being used by Indians. 9% of the farm land, 3% of the grazing land, and 100% of the timber land is used by Indians. In addition, 31% of the Tribal farm land and 18% of the Tribal grazing land is being used by Indian residents.

Nearly three-fourths of the reservation is hill land. Most of the steeper slopes are being farmed beyond their capability and are highly eroded. A greater return could be obtained from these lands if used for hardwood timber production. The more gentle slopes which are now being intensively farmed should be planted to grass and used for grazing purposes to provide a higher return. The bottom lands offer an excellent potential for increased returns through the development of irrigation which would permit the production of special vegetable crops and others such as corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans. Selected use of the land as a comprehensive livestock feeding program would be profitable, since this would utilize locally-grown crops. The Winnebago Reservation is located close to Omaha, Nebraska, and Sioux City, Iowa, one of the largest livestock marketing centers in the nation.

Of the 445 allotments on the Winnebago Reservation still in trust status, nearly 92% (408) are presently in an heirship status and the number is increasing daily. The following statistics by number of owners give some indication of this problem:

Single owner - 7%
2 to 10 owners - 31%
Over 10 owners - 61%

TRANSPORTATION

The reservation is served by two US highways - US 77 which passes through the mid-eastern portion and US 73E which passes through the extreme eastern portion, both traveling in a north to south direction. The extreme western portion of the reservation is served by State highway 9. There are approximately 257 miles of section roads on the reservation which have both gravel and earth surface. 30.4 miles of these roads are maintained by BIA and the remaining roads are maintained by either the county or townships. The Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad secondary mainline parallels US Highway 77 through the reservation. Commercial air service is available at the Sioux City, Iowa, municipal airport which is located 30 miles north of the reservation.

POPULATION

The latest official membership roll of the Winnebago Tribe was made in 1934. This was not kept current in an accurate manner and therefore in August of 1964 the Tribal Council began updating the roll. As of February 1, 1971, there were 1,928 applications for enrollment in the Winnebago Tribe. 632 Indians reside on the reservation. These represent 211 Indian families averaging 3 people per family, with an average age of 25.5 years. The ages range from babies to 96 years and include 326 female and 306 male. Further, 245 Winnebago members reside adjoining the reservation in the neighboring towns; these represent 105 families, with an average age of 26 years. 144 are female and 101 are male.

The Winnebago Agency records indicate that the reservation population has remained about the same for the past 20 to 30 years. There is continual movement from the reservation, but these are replaced by others who are returning due to unemployment and poor living conditions in the cities.

INCOME

The income of the members of the Winnebago Tribe is substantially below the national average, and is less than what is needed to properly support their families. The majority of the reservation families obtain their income from temporary or seasonal employment in the adjoining towns or part-time work in agriculture. Approximately 68.5% of the families are assisted by some type of welfare program. The median family income of the reservation Indian is approximately $3,031 annually.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska accepted the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska were ratified on February 29, 1936. Approval of the Constitution and Bylaws was given on April 3, 1936, by the Secretary of the Interior. A corporate charter was ratified on August 15, 1936. The Council is composed of nine members who are elected at large by secret ballot. Three members are elected each year. After each election, the Council elects from its own membership a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. A treasurer is appointed either from within the Tribal Council or from the Tribal membership. These procedures were established in a constitutional amendment ratified February 25, 1963, and are presently working very well. The membership of the Tribal Council works very closely with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other government agencies. The Tribal Council is progressive in its thinking and with its limited financial income, is making very good progress in management capabilities.

TRIBAL PROGRAMS

Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

The Tribe has been cooperating with the Golden Rod Hills Community Action Council, which is a five-county Community Action Program (CAP) agency. They conduct a full OEO program on the Winnebago Reservation, which involves Headstart, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Operation Mainstream, Outreach, Community Center, and a program for the senior citizens. The Tribe plans to be a "Delegate Agency" in the future, which will place the total management responsibility of the Tribal programs with the Tribal Council. This will be another step forward for the Tribe in management of its own affairs.

Public Housing

The local Housing Authority has been allotted an additional 25 units of housing, to be under construction in the spring of 1971. This will make a total of 55 units available to the community.

Industrial Development

The 25-acre tract which the Tribe purchased for industry is now being developed, in conjunction with another 20 acres, to formulate an industrial park and commercial area. This project is being funded with assistance from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Tribe completed a 9,000 sq.ft. office building in October 1969 which has been leased to the General Services Administration (GSA) for BIA office space. This building was financed by a $200,000 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Public Facility Loan which will be retired by rental fees over a 25-year period. The Tribe has submitted an application to HUD for a 30,000 sq.ft. Community Center which will be financed with a Neighborhood Facilities Grant. Portions of this building will be leased to different organizations to cover operations and maintenance.

Community Health

In February 1969 the Tribal Council contracted a Community Health Service. Total 1969 budget for this service was $21,183 with a 5.7% increase for 1970. This program is involved with physical, mental and environmental health on the reservation.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Winnebago Reservation has excellent potential for commercial and industrial development. Distinct advantages are the two US highways (73E and 77), a secondary mainline railroad of the CB&Q, two natural gas mainlines, a good supply of water, and an excellent municipal airport located in Sioux City, Iowa, only 30 miles distant. Three nearby metropolitan areas (Sioux City, Iowa, and Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska) would provide the population support for commercial reservation enterprises.

The Indian population is relatively small on the Winnebago Reservation. However, combined with the population of the adjoining Omaha Reservation, there are approximately 2,000 people.

The labor force for the Winnebago Reservation is as follows:

	Total	Male	Female
Available 16 years and over.....	624	294	330
Employed -- Permanent	67	23	44
Temporary	97	59	38
Total.....	164	82	82
Unemployed.....	253	126	127

The primary source of income for both Indians and non-Indians either on or adjacent to the reservation has been and still is agriculture or agri-related businesses. The majority of the Indian people reside in or near the village of Winnebago, Nebraska. The people living adjacent to the village live on small acreages, with the balance of the land leased to non-Indian farmers. The basic economic resource of the Winnebago Reservation is its land totaling 28,073.39 acres, the majority of which is leased by non-Indians. The principal sources of income from the land are surface leasing for intensive farming which provides an annual return of $198,650 and timber sales which returns $11,777. Most of the income is from allotted land, and 75% of this lease income does not remain on the reservation but is paid to non-resident owners.

HEALTH

The U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Indian Health maintains a 65-bed hospital at Winnebago, Nebraska, which serves the Winnebago and Omaha Reservations and other Indian groups. To provide complete services, the hospital staff consists of four physicians, 14 registered nurses, a pathologist, dentist, field health nurse, sanitarian, and others. Complete clinical out-patient service is available. Nearly all surgery is performed at Creighton University Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, about 70 miles distant. Overall, services available are adequate to meet the normal needs of the Winnebago residents, and the facilities render better services than are found in most non-Indian communities of comparable size.

The Division of Indian Health staff ranks the major health problems of the Winnebago residents as - first, alcoholism; second, accidents; and third, diabetes and its complications. The high accident rate and incidence of diabetes is related to alcoholism.

Almost all homes on the reservation have sanitary and domestic water facilities, depending upon the desires of the family. These facilities have only recently been made available under the Public Health Service program (P.L. 86-121). Under this program, 58 rural homes have been served; 27 have a modern water and sewer system, while the remaining have only a sanitary privy and simple well.

WELFARE

The Indian residents of the Winnebago Reservation receive welfare assistance from both the Thurston County Welfare Department and BIA. Categorical aid programs are administered by the county, and BIA administers a general assistance program.

The following table shows the welfare assistance for fiscal year 1970:

	Persons	Amount
General Assistance	54	$ 15,000
Child Welfare	20	2,100
Aid to Dependent Children	130	76,700
Other Welfare	43	27,600
Total	247	$121,400

COMMODITY PROGRAM

Surplus commodities are distributed monthly on the Winnebago Reservation by the county. In the past the Tribe had this expense and responsibility. The county uses the Tribal distribution facilities, but has the expense of transportation and accounting. Thurston County, which includes both the Winnebago and Omaha reservations, is the only county in the state that distributes surplus commodities to families. All other counties in the state use the Food Stamp Program.

EDUCATION

The 1970 school age population of the Winnebago residents is as follows:

Pre-school, ages 4-5..... 71
Elementary, ages 6-14.....209
Secondary, ages 15-18..... 94
Post-secondary, ages 18-35..... 29

24 Tribal members between the ages of 6-18 are not attending school, 15 male and 9 female. The problem of the school drop-out is still a very serious one on the reservation; however, some progress is being made, which is evident in the fact that the drop-out rate in 1968 was 62% as compared to 32% in 1970. The public school has upgraded its staff from a part-time counselor to one full-time counselor. Indian enrollment of the Winnebago Public School has also increased from 65% in 1968 to 72.6% in 1970.

The eduational interest of the Indian people continues to increase. 89% of the parents attended an education conference held in the local school. In 1970 a Tribal Education Committee was formed in conjunction with the public school. Further, the Johnson O'Malley funds are now administered by the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Development Corporation.

Activities of the Indian Commission and the Office of the State Indian Commission:

For the period from July 1, 1973 through June 30, 1974

July-- Meeting with Santee-Sioux Economic Development Committee in Lincoln at the Sportsman, Inc.

Conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with Public School Administrators.

Meeting at the Santee-Sioux Tribe Reservation on Economic Development and Law Enforcement problems.

Meeting in Scottsbluff, Nebraska with Nebraska Indian Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs officials.

Meeting with Civil Rights officials of the U.S. Department of Justice, Region VII, Kansas City, Missouri.

Meeting with Dr. D. B. Varner, President of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, regarding Indian students and tuition waiver request.

August-- Lectured to graduate Sociology class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Meeting with the League of Women Voters regarding pending legislative projections on Indian Bounty Act.

Conference at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, regarding agriculture as a small business opportunity for Indians.

Meeting with Dr. George Peng on development of Indian reservations.

Meeting with Mrs. Exon, wife of the Governor of the State of Nebraska, on plans for an Indian Art Show.

Meeting at the Winnebago Indian Agency on the plan for the Indian Satellite Community College on the three reservations in Nebraska.

Attended the 106th Pow Wow at the Omaha Indian Tribe Reservation.

Attended an Indian Alcoholism Workshop at Omaha Indian Tribe Reservation.

Conference for Mid-West Indian Manpower Conference regarding government contracts and federal legislation.

Indian Commission meeting.

Continued:

August-- Meeting in Scottsbluff, Nebraska with local, state, federal, and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials for survival services to Indians living in Western Nebraska.

Conference in Pierre, South Dakota for first annual Indian Planning Conference.

September--Meeting with the Counselor to the Indian students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Meeting with the Omaha Presbyterian Churches regarding Indian programs.

Accompanied an Indian woman from Omaha to the Penal Complex to visit her son.

Indian Commission meeting in Lincoln to seat new Commission members.

Meeting with Educational Specialists from the State Education Commission to design a special educational program for grade school Indian children.

Lectured to freshman English class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Visited Omaha Indian Tribe Reservation regarding Law Enforcement problems.

Visited Winnebago Public School.

Visited Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe Reservation regarding election problems, legal problems, and Headstart transportation problems.

Talked to Northeast High School, Lincoln, Nebraska, literature class and Indian problems.

October-- Meeting at Lincoln Indian Center with League of Women Voters.

Emergency meeting at South Sioux City, Nebraska, regarding the possible loss of federal funds for National Indian Planning Project.

Meeting with Bureau of Indian Affairs in Winnebago, Nebraska, on welfare, education, and law enforcement.

Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, for National Indian Lutheran Board elections and regionalization plans.

Continued:

October-- Attended National Conference of the Council of Church Unity--Presbyterian Church--U.S.A., New York City for Indian programs.

Meeting at the Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe Reservation to evaluate federally-funded programs.

Meeting with the State and Bureau of Indian Affairs on welfare services to Indians.

Lectured to Platte College Sociology class.

Nebraska Fall Social Work Institute.

Talked to Pound Junior High School classes.

Talked to Dawes Junior High School classes.

Communication skills for Indians at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, and reservations.

November-- Visited Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe Reservation on welfare and law enforcement problems.

Third Annual Governor's Conference on Human Resources at Columbus, Nebraska.

Special meeting in Alliance, Nebraska, regarding the Bi-Centennial plans for Fort Robinson.

Lectured to Rural Sociology class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Special memorial services for Dr. John Neihardt, friend of Black Elk.

Special meeting at the Winnebago Indian Agency regarding the Indian Education Act, Title IV.

Meeting with State Senator Glen Goodrich regarding the need for Indian legal service.

Emergency call to the Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe Reservation regarding homicide case of Indian infant.

Talked to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln students involved in Indian Tutorial program.

Indian Commission meeting, Winnebago, Nebraska.

December-- Accompanied Indian person from the city of Omaha to confer with the Secretary of State.

Meeting with the Mexican-American Commission and officials from Chadron State College regarding Minority Student Assistance Program legislation plan.

Meeting in Omaha with Mr. Art Springer and officials of Congressman McCollister's office regarding natural resources on Indian lands.

Talked to Sociology class at Beatrice Public School on Indian problems.

Met with members of the Lutheran Church Committee regarding the Winnebago Timber Project proposal.

Meeting in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, to validate Indian Advisory Board Action on their application for federal funds under the Indian Education Act, Title IV.

Indian Commission meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Meeting of the Institutional Racism Committee of the Consultation on Church Union, New York City, regarding Indians and church-sponsored programs.

Meeting in Washington, D.C., with H.E.W. and U.S. Justice Department officials on education and civil rights problems of Indians.

1974

January-- Advancement of Indian Bounty Act Repeal LB 131 to Enrollment and Review.

Meeting at the Lincoln Indian Center with Dr. William Thompson of Dana College regarding the proposed Black Elk-Neihardt Memorial Project.

Meeting in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on the Indian drop-out problem in the public schools there.

Nebraska Indian Commission meeting, Alliance, Nebraska.

Luncheon meeting with Dr. Ebb Munden of the First United Methodist Church of Lincoln, regarding the church and Indian problems.

Met with officials from the Riverfront Development Committee regarding the plan for an Indian Cultural Center in the Omaha area.

Continued:

January-- Meeting at the Omaha Indian Tribe Reservation regarding Indian health needs.

Meeting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Winnebago Indian Agency regarding welfare and foster care of Indian children.

Meeting with the Fort Robinson Bi-Centennial Commission regarding the plans for Indian participation.

Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska of the United Indians of Nebraska organization.

National meeting of Committee on Institutional Racism in Washington, D.C.

Talk to the Penal Complex staff regarding Indian inmates.

Meeting at Dana College, Blair, Nebraska, of Black Elk-Neihardt Memorial Board.

First Annual Conference of the Center for Rural Development at Walthill, Nebraska.

Meeting at the Lincoln Indian Center with the League of Women Voters on Indian problems.

Meeting with State Senator Duke Snyder and Blair Richendifer regarding the Indian Bounty Act legislation.

February-- Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska with Criminal Justice officials regarding a proposed Legal Service Program for Indians statewide.

Lecture to University of Nebraska-Omaha--Introduction to Social Welfare.

Special meeting with State Senator Duke Snyder and Winnebago Tribal Council regarding the Indian Bounty Act legislation.

Special meeting in Scottsbluff and Alliance, Nebraska, for civil rights complaints of Mrs. Lillian Bordeaux and Ruth Flood who were fired from their jobs with the Alliance Headstart Program.

Talked to correctional officers at the Penal Complex regarding Indian inmates.

Meeting with the Nebraska Director of Mountain Plains Training Program in Glasgow, Montana.

Talked to students and adults in Fairfield, Nebraska on Indian problems.

Indian Commission meeting, Macy, Nebraska.

Continued:

February-- Talked to Nebraska Wesleyan University History class on Indian affairs.

Meeting with the State Planning and Programming Office regarding the need for housing for Indian people.

Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on Indian treaties.

March-- Meeting at Elliot Public School on Indian Education Program.

Meeting with State Crime Commission official to draft a state-wide Indian Legal Service Program.

Interview on Omaha TV Channel 3 on Indian Bounty Act legislation status report.

Indian Commission meeting, Santee-Sioux Indian Reservation.

Talk to Benson Presbyterian Church on Indian problems.

Meeting of Nebraska Bi-Centennial Commission at Grand Island, Nebraska.

Meeting in Lincoln with Tyson Whiteside, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Region VII, Kansas City, Missouri.

Meeting with Warden Charles Wolff, Penal Complex, regarding the need for Indian oriented programs.

Emergency meeting at the Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe Reservation regarding problems with the Tribal Council and the need for Indian welfare information.

Meeting with the State Labor Department to plan for Indian inmate training programs.

Indian planning meeting at Scottsbluff, Nebraska with State, federal resources.

April-- Conference at the University of Nebraska-Omaha on national social problems.

State Legislature second reading of Indian Bounty Act Repeal.

Meeting at Elliot Public School to review the Indian Education Act proposal for Part "B" and "C" under Title IV.

Meeting with Rev. Melvin Jones of the "Back to the Bible" radio program regarding the need for Indian programs in Nebraska for legal service and emergency medical-dental programs.

Continued:

April-- Informal hearing at the Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe Reservation to hear the problems from the people.

Talk to the Indian students at the Indian Cultural Week at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Talk to the corrections officers at the Penal Complex on Indian inmates.

Lectured to Speech class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Nebraska Indian problems.

Meeting in Lincoln with the Indian Health Service officials from the Aberdeen area office.

Lectured to the Sociology class at Bellevue College.

Indian Commission meeting in the city of Omaha.

Talked to the Indian students at the Indian Cultural Week at Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska.

Interview by Lincoln Journal regarding the 1868 Treaty.

National conference of Institutional Racism at Atlanta, Georgia.

Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska with State Game and Parks Commission and U.S. Department of Interior for plans to establish a Lewis and Clark Trail.

May-- Meeting with the Omaha Indian Tribal Council and the State Education Commission in Lincoln.

Conference at the First Methodist Church, Lincoln, on minority problems and the church.

Lectured to the Sociology class at Northwest High School in Omaha.

Meeting of the Black Elk-Neihardt Memorial Board at Dana College, Blair, Nebraska.

Indian Commission meeting in Lincoln.

Tyson Whiteside, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, meeting in Lincoln.

Meeting in Gering, Nebraska on Indian legal problems.

Continued:

May-- Meeting in Gordon, Nebraska with the Indians of that area and state and federal resource people.

Meeting at Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe Reservation on law enforcement problems, alcohol, and drug related crimes on the reservation.

Meeting of the Governor's Manpower Council.

Meeting with Warren Methodist Church, Lincoln, on Indian problems.

Conference in Region VII, Kansas City, Missouri, H.U.D. and civil rights.

Meeting with State Equal Opportunity Commission official regarding Mrs. Lillian Bordeaux and Ruth Flood who were fired from their jobs on the Alliance Headstart Program.

June-- Meeting in Omaha with Riverfront Development Committee.

Meeting in South Sioux City, Nebraska area Indians for plans to organize their Indian community.

Visit Omaha Indian Tribe Reservation, Council, tribal members, Indian police, Education and Health office.

Lectured to 4-H Conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Visit Winnebago Indian Tribe, Council, tribal members, senior citizens, Superintendent of Bureau of Indian Affairs, Economic Development office, and Tribal Conservation officer.

Interview on Channel 10-11, Lincoln, on current Indian problems.

Indian Commission meetings at Alliance and Scottsbluff.

Meeting with Lutheran ministers regarding Indian programs.

Dedication of cattle herd given to Santee-Sioux Tribe by Methodist Churches of Nebraska.

Meeting in Washington, D.C. with National Congress of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Education Office, H.E.W., H.U.D., Indian Rights Association, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights.

End of 1973-1974 Fiscal Year--July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974.

THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

The concerns and needs of all Nebraska Indians are the concerns and responsibility of the Office of the Nebraska Indian Commission and its various committees which deal with the priority needs of the Indian people which include: tribal, local, county, state, federal, church, and other private funding sources for Indian programs, legislation, education and training, health and welfare, legal service, and economic development.

With the passage of LB 37 in 1973, this enabled the Indian Commission to expand its membership from 13 to 15 members giving a broader and more representative Indian Commission membership for both on and off of the reservations.

The 1973 Legislative session also provided the Commission with sufficient funds to have an Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Nebraska Indian Commission who is stationed in the Panhandle of Western Nebraska and he also has the responsibility of being the liason between the State of Nebraska and the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in the Aberdeen Area Office. He further has the responsibility of Indian Community organization across the entire State where Indians are encouraged to be organized into identifiable groups to qualify for various programs and funding.

The office of the Nebraska Indian Commission is in close communication with the Nebraska Indian communities of the three established federal Indian reservations and those Indian organizations in off-reservation areas, rural areas, and in the urban and metropolitan communities

The Nebraska Indian Commission is in contact with all local, state, federal, and other existing and planned programs and resources and this information is promptly promulgated to the Indian community.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is directly involved as a "reviewer" of all funding applications for federal funds and therefore, is involved in every effort to enhance the betterment of the Nebraska Indian community.

WELFARE

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission keeps the Nebraska community informed of their rights to public assistance and any changes therein.

Results: All Nebraska Indians are eligible for welfare assistance if they qualify just as any other citizen does.

The reservation Indian is eligible for interim assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 90 days, during which time assistance from the county and state is initiated.

HOUSING

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission has been active in bringing attention to the critical housing situation which exists for Nebraska Indians, particularly in the off-reservation areas. With the Administration "freezing" housing funds, the housing shortage of the Nebraska Indians has not changed.

Results: At the present time, there are limited housing projects on all three reservations which includes new homes as well as home improvement programs.

There seems to be a very strong relunctance on the part of the white community to include Indians in low-cost housing programs.

There is wide-spread discrimination against Indians in housing across the entire State and the Indians continue living in unsafe, sub-standard housing.

HUD is initiating a new housing program called Section 23 whereby the federal government will subsidize the rent or lease fees for the low-income people. It will be interesting to see if Indians are included in this program.

EDUCATION

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission is aware that education and training is the key to the breaking of the poverty cycle which was created for the Indians. The Commission is involved with local and statewide efforts to help those educational institutions to provide a method of curriculum comprehension for Indian students who have trouble with the upper-middle class curriculum.

Results: On all three reservations there are under construction new school facilities whereby Indian students will have an opportunity to have at their disposal all necessary educational materials and equipment and sensitized teachers and personnel to have a good learning environment.

On all three reservations, there is the Indian Community College opportunity.

Every Indian student in the State of Nebraska has the opportunity to enter the University of Nebraska with assurance of student financial assistance.

EMPLOYMENT

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission keeps the Nebraska Indian community informed of job opportunities as they are announced. Each State Agency sends employment opportunities lists to the Commission and these are, in turn, mailed out to the Indian community.

Results: Since the Indians of Nebraska do not have good education and training, they cannot successfully compete for skilled positions.

The reservation Indians have special employment counselors to assist them in finding jobs.

The Assistant to the Director of the Nebraska Indian Commission office in Lincoln has responsibility for job development for Indians which includes job opportunities for Indians who are released from the Penal Complex.

Discrimination is a factor in the low estate of Indians in employment.

LEGAL SERVICES

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission makes every effort to establish open communication by the Indians of Nebraska with the office of the Governor, Attorney General, State Patrol, Crime Commission, and other state and federal agencies dealing with law.

The Omaha Indian Tribe is under federal jurisdiction for crimes committed on the reservation under Retrocession, while the Winnebago and Santee-Sioux Tribes are under Public Law 280, with law enforcement on their reservation under state jurisdiction.

Because of federal laws and treaties, the reservation Indians are exempt from state sales and income taxes.

There is wide-spread discrimination against the Indians of this State and the civil rights of the Indians are infringed upon.

Results: The Nebraska Indian Commission and the friends of Nebraska Indians were instrumental in bringing about the repeal of the Indian Bounty Act which affected the Winnebago Indians in Thurston County.

The three tribes have a legal assistance program for reservation Indians.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is seeking a Statewide Indian Assistance Program.

The Nebraska Indian Commission has a staff member of the Native American Rights Fund in its office to assist the Commission to establish a statewide Indian Legal Service Program.

The Nebraska Indian Commission along with the office of the State Equal Opportunity Commission are working on several civil rights cases involving Indians.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is seeking the review of every Indian imprisoned in State institutions.

MEDICAL--DENTAL

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission seeks medical and dental services for all Indians in Nebraska and is attempting to coordinate services for Indians with Indian Health Services, University Medical Hospital, clinics, and doctors.

Results: The Indian Health Services offer only limited health care. There is a critical shortage of professional personnel.

Each of the three tribes have community health representatives who provide preventive medical care, and transportation to medical facilities where they exist.

The Nebraska Indian Commission was directly involved in procuring an ambulance for the Santee-Sioux Indian Tribe from the Presbyterian Church of Nebraska, and also a mini-bus for the Indians in Western Nebraska, stationed in Alliance, Nebraska so that the sick and injured Indians can be transported over 100 miles to the Indian Health facilities in South Dakota.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is seeking funds for a Statewide Indian Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program for Nebraska Indians who do not have this service available today.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission is working with both the reservation Indians and those who live off of the reservations in bringing economic development to them.

Each Indian Tribe has an economic development specialist to bring industry to the reservation.

Results: All of the Nebraska Indian Tribes have the assistance of the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Development Corporation to bring job opportunities to the Indians.

Each tribe has an industrial park and there are existing industries on the three reservations where Indians are offered employment orientation, manpower training, and other educational opportunities.

The economic picture of the reservation Indians is good.

SUMMARY

With the establishment of the Nebraska Indian Commission as a permanent State Agency, creating an Indian voice on the State level, the Nebraska Indians have become involved in their own affairs and out of this, progress is being made on all fronts.

The Nebraska Indians have learned that tribalism can be practiced at appropriate times and places and because the Indians themselves initiated this new philosophy, strong "Indian unity" has emerged and the Indian community has become a close-knit community, concerning themselves with the problems of the entire Indian community across the State.

The Indian leadership has associated itself with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations on a regional and national level.

The Nebraska Indian Commission wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Governor's office and all the State Agencies, including the State Legislature which has shown confidence in the Nebraska Indian Commission by passage of crucial Indian legislation. The Nebraska Indian Commission is a professional, all-Indian organization working for all Indians of this State.

It would not be possible for the Nebraska Indian Commission to exist if it were not for the dedicated and interested people from all areas, including the Indian and non-Indian community who have contributed time and counsel to the Indians of Nebraska.